Dr. Tinker Claus, the Toy Mender

Do You Know Santa's Brother?

By Harold Debus and Fern McLellan

Little girls and little boys
Know that Santa Claus brings toys;
But when they're broken, bent and sick,
Who fixes them so nice and quick,
With his hammer and his saws?
Why, dear old Dr. Tinker Claus!

IN a snug little house where there are red, yellow and blue hollyhocks in front and a big apple tree in the back yard, lives a nice old man who mends toys for girls and boys. Now you'll be surprised when I tell you who this nice old man is. He is Santa Claus' brother and his name is Dr. Tinker Claus.

You didn't know that Old Santa had a brother, did you? Well, I didn't know either until Chocolate, the Toy Soldier, told Fidgety Feet, the Circus Clown, and Fidgety Feet told me.

Chocolate said that Dr. Tinker Claus looks just like Santa Claus only he's not quite so tall and instead of wearing a red coat and red boots he wears a blue apron and yellow slippers. But his eyes twinkle just like his brother Santa's twinkle and he has rosy cheeks and a little round nose and wears glasses on the end of it.

All day long you can hear him busily at work in his little shop. Rat-atap-tap, goes his hammer. Ziplazip-zip, goes his saw. From early morn till late at night he mends sick and broken toys, fixing them just as good as new and sometimes better—sometimes better as you'll soon find out.

He never stops working till his plump little wife calls him to supper and then to bed and scolds him for working so hard. But why does he work so hard? Well, there are so many sick and broken toys in this town that Santa Claus asked his brother, Dr. Tinker Claus, to keep them well and happy until he can return next Christmas and bring some new ones. That's the reason, don't you see.

Next week I'll tell you about the nice surprise party Dr. Tinker Claus gave the toys beneath the old apple tree.

Why not try coloring your little friends?

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DR. TINKER CLAUS, THE TOY MENDER

Dr. Tinker Gives a Party

By Harold Debus and Fern McLellan

You are invited to my party,
In the shade of the old apple tree.
We'll have some cake and lemonade,
And a nice surprise by me.

THE invitation was joyously received by the little folk in Toytown because it was sent by Dr. Tinker Claus, the kind old gentleman who moved into the little house down the street where there are red, yellow and blue hollyhocks in front and a big apple tree in the back.

Old Dr. Tinker Claus, who mends sick and broken toys, is Santa Claus' brother, you know, and all the little toys knew they would have a nice time at his party. Cake and lemonade and a surprise. They were all very

much excited and with a bustle and hustle they washed ears, and faces and teeth.

"What are you going to wear to the party?" Fidgety Feet, the Circus Clown, asked Patsy, the Mama Doll.

"I am going to wear my blue gingham dress," she said. "What are you going to wear, Fidgety Feet?"

"Oh, me, ho—ho—ho—," laughed Fidgety Feet. "I am going to wear my red and blue spotted clown suit. What else should a clown wear?"

Mugsy the Monkey said he was going to wear his red coat, the one with the brass buttons. Bumpety Bump, the Rubber Ball, wore a sun suit so he could bounce better. And Teddy the Brown Bear, just combed and parted his hair between his fuzzy-wuzzy ears and said he was ready.

When they arrived many other toys were already playing and dancing in the shade of the old apple tree. Jumpety Jump, the Jumping Rope, had climbed the tree and tied both its ends around a limb, and soon Suzzane, the French Doll, was swinging with Chocolate, the Toy Soldier. Dr. Tinker Claus and his roly-poly wife, Katrinka, just sat on a bench in the shade and smiled, and smiled and smiled.

"It's time for the cake and lemonade," he finally called. So everyone sat down to a little table while Katrinka served the goodies.

After everyone had eaten a big piece of cake, and Bumpety Bump, the Rubber Ball, with the round fat tummy, had eaten two pieces, Dr. Tinker Claus said:

"Now I have a surprise for you. I am going to serve lemonade in my magic cups."

And he did. The cups looked like silver bells. And when he poured them full of lemonade and placed in each tiny pieces of cracked ice, they went tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, just like sleigh bells.

"That's just what they are," said Dr. Tinker Claus. "My brother Santa sent them to me. His reindeers wore them. Aren't they pretty? Doesn't it make you think of a snowy Christmas night?"

And everyone said it did and everyone sang the song about "jingle bells, jingle bells," while the pretty sleigh bell cups kept time.

And in the next story you'll find out why Bumpety Bump, the Rubber Ball, lost his bounce.

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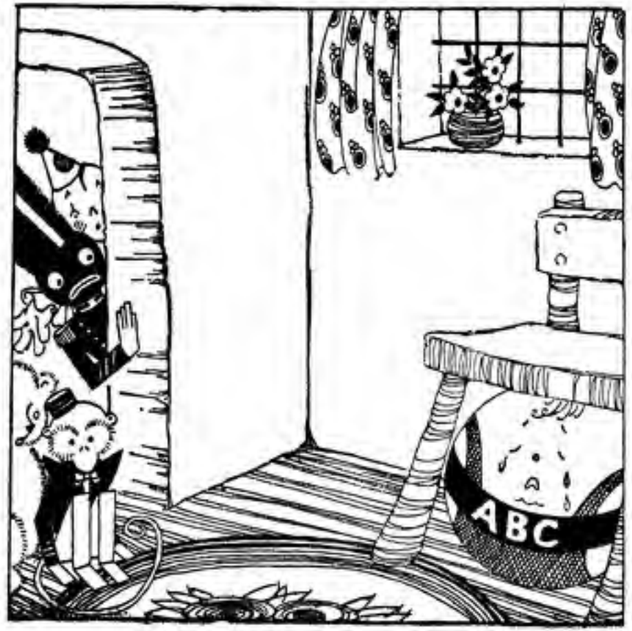
Dr. Tinker Claus, the Toy Mender

Bumpety Bump Loses His Bounce

By Harold Debus and Fern McLellan



Bumpety Bump once lost his bounce,
Nobody knew the cause.
But now he has it back again,
Thanks to Dr. Tinker Claus.

POOR little Bumpety Bump, the Rubber Ball, awoke one morning with a pain in the spot where the A B C's make a belt around his fat little tummy.

"Oh, my—oh, my," cried little Bumpety Bump. "Oh, my—oh my."

All the toys opened their eyes wide when they heard Bumpety Bump's cries and ran into the next room, where the little rubber ball was sleeping beneath a chair.

"What is the matter, Bumpety Bump?" asked Fidgety Feet yawning and rubbing the sand out of his eyes. "Are you feeling bad?"

"My goodness gracious," exclaimed Chocolate, the Toy Soldier. "You all sho do look bad."

"Oh, my—oh, my," tearfully said Bumpety Bump. "I have lost my bounce. I tried to bounce and it hurts right here in my A B C's."

"What you all needs is a doctah," said Chocolate. "Fidgety Feet and I will roll you ovah to see Dr. Tinker Claus and he'll fix you up as good as new and maybe better."

So Fidgety Feet and Chocolate carefully rolled poor little Bumpety Bump over to Dr. Tinker Claus, the toy mender, who lives in a little house where there are red, yellow and blue hollyhocks in front and a big apple tree in back.

Dr. Tinker Claus felt very sorry for poor little Bumpety Bump when he saw him and looked at his tongue through the glasses that he wears on the end of his funny little nose.

"Bumpety Bump, you are a very sick ball," he finally said. "But if you'll mind what I tell you, why you will soon get your bounce back just as good as new and maybe better.

"I am sure you ate too much cake at my party. You were the only one that ate two pieces. Now, remember what I say. Every morning you must wake up bright and early and bounce right out of bed and take your bouncing exercises. Jump up and down ten times and then run out of doors and breathe the pure morning air and play in the bright sunshine until breakfast is ready. Then eat a big dish of oatmeal and you'll grow up to be a big beach ball or maybe a basketbal. And remember, no cake or candy between meals."

And Bumpety Bump did what Dr. Tinker Claus told him to do. He soon got his bounce back. He is very happy and has decided to become a basketball when he gets big and play with the big boys.

Now don't forget to tell all your playmates that the next story will be about Suzanne, the French Doll who learned to say "Ma-ma."

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